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Letter dated 9 February 1999 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to our letter dated 13 January 1999 (A/53/798-S/1999/57), I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia and of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 4 and 8 February 1999, respectively.

On 4 February 1999, one C-130 military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force entered the Nicosia FIR from a northerly direction, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou at 1617 hours. The same aircraft took off at 1645 hours of the same day in the direction of the Ankara FIR.

On 8 February 1999, one C-160 military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force entered the Nicosia FIR from a northerly direction at 1100 hours, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and flew over the Karpasia peninsula, exiting at 1149 hours in a south-easterly direction.

As stated in my previous letters, these Turkish unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus are in violation of international air traffic rules and, at the same time, they are in contravention of the provisions of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to strongly protest this new provocative act by Turkey, which is a further reminder of Turkey's blatant disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and all the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

I would like to underline, once again, that the present violation occurred following the adoption of Security Council resolutions 1217 (1998) and 1218 (1998), in which the Council called upon all States to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus and to refrain from any action which might prejudice that sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. It is yet another example of Turkey's unwillingness to comply with the provisions of those resolutions.

Such provocative actions are not conducive to reducing tension and run counter to the initiative of the Secretary-General announced on 30 September 1998, within the framework of his mission of good offices, with the goal of reducing tensions and promoting progress towards a just and lasting settlement in Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) James DROUSHIOTIS
Chargé d'affaires a.i.